

Victory reminder to Sutton in Cup interlude as...

WANDERERS DAZZLE WOKING TO MAINTAIN THE TITLE CHASE

Woking 0, Wycombe Wanderers 2

LEADING MARKSMEN, Tony Horseman and Keith Searle, added another goal apiece at Woking on Tuesday night as Wycombe Wanderers interrupted the Amateur Cup campaign to turn in perhaps their most dazzling Isthmian League performance of the season so far.

Their 19th win in 25 league outings keeps them hot-foot on the scent of pacesetter Sutton United, who, after a 4-1 success at Clapton on Saturday, are again reduced to a six points lead at the top.

The catch still remains nonetheless. Wycombe, already claiming three games in hand, are faced by various Cup commitments for at least the next two weekends.

WHAT MORE?

With Saturday in view, Wanderers couldn't have done much more — other than by scoring a few extra goals — to make it a restless journey back to his Alvechurch home for Wyn Bowen, the Oldbury coach on a second 'spying' assignment in a matter of days.

At Didcot last Saturday, when accompanied by manager Alan Hawkes, Bowen had seen a less than full strength Wycombe line up hampered by restricting circumstances.

But the team which bewildered Woking was an exact copy of Enfield's conquerors. And they gave Bowen plenty of extra copy with which to complete his dossier.

The Kingsfield pitch had the kind of table top appearance no one could reasonably expect at such a wintry stage of the year. Although Woking seemed more interested in preventing a Wanderers win than anything else, they restrained the visitors from taking full advantage of the excellent ground conditions.

Wanderers skill and ball control carried them through magnificently despite home attempts to disrupt them via physical markings.

GOALS ABSENCE

Yet for all their positive play and non-stop attack, the goals just wouldn't come — for which Woking's goalkeeper Collyer was largely responsible.

Collyer, who has gained F.A. XI representative honours, dealt confidently while Wycombe tortured the Woking backrow by crashing long, high passes into their 'box'.

Paul Fuschillo and Johnny Hutchinson both worked well on the right flank in the early minutes, while Ted Powell twice tried hard with long range shots and Woking scraped through unscathed from several scrambles in front of their line.

Meanwhile, a lonely looking John Maskell barely touched the ball until the 40th minute. When in an attacking position, Woking were blatantly let down by their lack of pre-planned moves, and the failure of Ken Oram to bypass his one-time Oxford City team-mate, Ian Rundle. Impressive Rundle played probably better than at anytime this season.

Impromptu efforts to slip Wycombe's defence rarely looked likely to succeed. Greatest threat was the home number ten, Elliott, who often tricked Keith Blunt into giving ground, and led Woking in what, at one stage, seemed to be

Father Keith

KEITH SEARLE became a father on Monday night when his wife, Sandy presented him with a bouncing baby daughter, named Kelly. Mother and child are both doing well, and Keith celebrated in grand style at Woking on Tuesday night by scoring Wycombe's second goal.

developing into a fight back after half-time.

RELIEF

Wycombe fans breathed a sigh of relief after an injury scare concerning Fuschillo. The sturdily built left back was helped off just before the interval holding his right knee, but returned seconds later.

While the football they played could scarcely cause complaint, one thing had been overlooked — the scoreline still stood blank.

But that situation was soon righted as John Delaney sent over a free kick and Horseman sneaked in a typical header from inside the area after 48 minutes.

Once ahead, Wanderers spent several anxious minutes fending off Woking's sudden whim of adventure, and it took iron-man Rundle to make a human wall on the goalline as one particularly nasty drive caught Wycombe in a rare tangle.

By the time substitute Dave Leonard saw action in place of Elton, Wanderers had long since restored the status quo however.

PERSISTENCE

Elliott deserved ten out of ten for sheer persistence, forcing Maskell into a quick-fire dash off his line to block a shot after 75 minutes, and then a timely interception of a cross off the right wing two minutes later.

Also persistent was an aggravating nosebleed endured by Hutchinson for the last fifteen minutes, which no amount of cotton wool could stop.

And there were other niggling injuries on the night, Delaney

receiving yet another knock on his already sore leg, Bremer being kicked on the foot, and more serious, the eager Horseman suffering mild concussion as well as a bang on his right calf.

'Bodger' wore an unhappy expression as he walked off four minutes early, replaced by Vince Faulkner.

With injury time approaching fast, Wanderers sealed their away victory despite last ditch efforts by the gallant Collyer, who raced off his line to block out Hutchinson on the way to goal. Always one Wanderer stood readily to follow up and sure enough Keith Searle was on hand to slam the ball into the back netting.

MELIA'S THOUGHTS

Among the spectators was Aldershot manager Jim Melia. Whether he had come to eye Woking or Wycombe, it was to the latter he must have turned his attentions by full time.

Both the lively display from each player as an individual and the watchful teamwork couldn't have failed to impress him.

Certainly Wyn Bowen had something to think about.

M.W.

WOKING: D. Collyer; B. Finn, R. Elton (sub. D. Leonard 72 mins.), D. Edwards, A. Christmas, S. Harding, D. Binks, T. Smith, M. Elliott, K. Oram.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: J. Maskell; P. Fuschillo, K. Blunt, E. Powell, J. Delaney, I. Rundle, B. Bremer, J. Hutchinson, K. Searle, L. Pritchard, A. Horseman (sub. V. Faulkner, 86 mins.).

Referee: Mr. K. W. Sutliff (Rainham).

Half-time: 0-0. Goalscorers: Wycombe—Horseman (18), Searle (90).